

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A technique for load balancing in resilient packet  
ring ("RPR") networks, including wavelength division  
multiplex RPR ("WDMRPR") networks is described. In one  
embodiment, the present technique comprises implementing  
on every node a QoS/BB monitor, which is common to all  
rings in the RPR and has knowledge of traffic performance  
for each class on each ring of the RPR, which information  
is obtained through periodic measurements or in response  
to failure events. This allows the monitor to vary the  
10 QoS parameters on a node, for a particular traffic class,  
to achieve load balancing. Likewise, the QoS/BB monitor  
can signal to the BB entity at higher layers to vary the  
BB parameters on a node for a particular class to achieve  
load balancing. The QoS/BB monitor enables QoS and BB  
15 parameter changes to be coordinated with one another.